

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image communication apparatus comprising:
 - a storage unit for storing an IP address and an identifier of a destination apparatus in correspondence
 - 5 with a telephone number of the destination apparatus;
 - an input acceptance unit for accepting input of the telephone number of the destination apparatus;
 - a first determination unit for determining if the IP address is stored in said storage unit in
 - 10 correspondence with the accepted telephone number; and
 - session request transmission unit for, when said first determination unit determines that the IP address is stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number, transmitting a session request to the
 - 15 destination apparatus so as to start an image communication using the IP address.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - session request transmission unit for, when said
 - 20 first determination unit determines that the IP address is not stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number, transmitting a session request to a first server;
 - address reception unit for receiving an IP
 - 25 address corresponding to the accepted telephone number from the first server; and

storage control unit for storing the received IP address in said storage unit in correspondence with the accepted telephone number.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further
5 comprising:

identifier request unit for requesting the destination apparatus to transmit an identifier after the session is established with the destination apparatus;

10 identifier reception unit for receiving the identifier transmitted from the destination apparatus in response to the identifier request;

second determination unit for determining whether or not the same identifier as the received identifier
15 is stored in said storage unit in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus; and

suppression unit for, when said second determination unit determines that the same identifier as the received identifier is not stored in said
20 storage unit in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus, suppressing an image communication to the destination apparatus.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein when said identifier reception unit does not receive any
25 identifier from the destination apparatus in response to the identifier request after an elapse of a predetermined period of time,

said suppression unit suppresses an image communication to the destination apparatus.

5. An image communication apparatus comprising:

storage unit for storing an IP address and an
5 identifier of a destination apparatus in correspondence with a telephone number of the destination apparatus;

input acceptance unit for accepting input of the telephone number of the destination apparatus;

search unit for searching said storage unit for
10 an identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number;

address request unit for, when the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number is stored as a result of search, requesting a second
15 server to transmit an IP address corresponding to the identifier; and

session request transmission unit for transmitting a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start an image communication using
20 the IP address acquired from the second server.

6. The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

session request transmission unit for, when the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone
25 number is not stored as a result of search, transmitting a session request to a first server;

identifier reception unit for receiving an identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number from the first server; and

storage control unit for storing the received
5 identifier in said storage unit.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the received identifier is contained in a response to the session request, which response is transmitted from the destination apparatus, and the response is transmitted
10 from the destination apparatus to said image communication apparatus via the first server.

8. A method of controlling an image communication apparatus, comprising:

a step of storing an IP address and an identifier
15 of a destination apparatus in correspondence with a telephone number of the destination apparatus;

an input acceptance step of accepting input of the telephone number of the destination apparatus;

a first determination step of determining if the
20 IP address is stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number in the storage step; and

a session request transmission step of transmitting, when it is determined in the first determination step that the IP address is stored in
25 correspondence with the accepted telephone number, a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start an image communication using the IP address.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

a session request transmission step of transmitting, when it is determined in the first
5 determination step that the IP address is not stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number, a session request to a first server; and

an address reception step of receiving an IP address corresponding to the accepted telephone number
10 from the first server, and

in that the storage step includes a step of storing the received IP address in correspondence with the accepted telephone number.

10. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
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an identifier request step of requesting the destination apparatus to transmit an identifier after the session is established with the destination apparatus;

20 an identifier reception step of receiving the identifier transmitted from the destination apparatus in response to the identifier request;

a second determination step of determining whether or not the same identifier as the received
25 identifier is stored in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus in the storage step; and

a suppression step of suppressing, when it is determined in the second determination step that the same identifier as the received identifier is not stored in correspondence with the telephone number of the destination apparatus, an image communication to
5 the destination apparatus.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the suppression step includes a step of suppressing, when any identifier is not received in the identifier
10 reception step from the destination apparatus in response to the identifier request after an elapse of a predetermined period of time, an image communication to the destination apparatus.

12. A method of controlling an image communication
15 apparatus, comprising:

a storage step of storing an IP address and an identifier of a destination apparatus in correspondence with a telephone number of the destination apparatus;

an input acceptance step of accepting input of
20 the telephone number of the destination apparatus;

a determination step of determining whether or not an identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number is stored in the storage step;

an address request step of requesting, when it is
25 determined in the determination step that the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone

number is stored, a second server to transmit an IP address corresponding to the identifier; and

a session request transmission step of transmitting a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start an image communication using the IP address acquired from the second server.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

a session request transmission step of transmitting, when it is determined in the determination step that the identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number is not stored, a session request to a first server; and

an identifier reception step of receiving an identifier corresponding to the accepted telephone number from the first server, and

in that the storage step includes a step of storing the received identifier.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the received identifier is contained in a response to the session request, which response is transmitted from the destination apparatus, and the response is transmitted from the destination apparatus to said image communication apparatus via the first server.

15. A control program of an image communication apparatus for making a computer implement a method of

controlling the image communication apparatus, said control method comprising:

a step of storing an IP address and an identifier of a destination apparatus in correspondence with a telephone number of the destination apparatus;

an input acceptance step of accepting input of the telephone number of the destination apparatus;

a first determination step of determining if the IP address is stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number in the storage step; and

a session request transmission step of transmitting, when it is determined in the first determination step that the IP address is stored in correspondence with the accepted telephone number, a session request to the destination apparatus so as to start an image communication using the IP address.

16. A computer readable storage medium storing a control program of an image communication apparatus of claim 15.

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